

The President's Daily Brief

July 31, 1976

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
exemption category 5B(1)(2)(3)
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the Director of Central Intelligence

July 31, 1976

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LEBANON: *Christian and leftist leaders have tentatively approved the Syrian-Palestinian accord signed in Damascus on Thursday.*

The two most likely spoilers of the agreement--Camille Shamun and leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt--issued statements yesterday expressing hope that a cease-fire will be implemented. Neither, however, could be drawn out on other provisions of the agreement.

Phalanges Party leader Jumayyil also endorsed the agreement, but issued a blunt warning that the Christians are not satisfied with the accord's reaffirmation of the 1969 Cairo agreement as the basis for regulating Palestinian activity in Lebanon. He implied that the Christians will demand even stricter regulations.

Jumayyil's remarks probably were intended to let the Palestinians know that the Christians are united on this issue and do not feel bound by an agreement they did not negotiate. Despite repeated assurances from Damascus, the Christians may be worried that Syria and the Palestinians have struck a private bargain.

The Syrians and Palestinians themselves are quarreling over a preamble to the agreement, apparently drafted solely by the Syrians.

The preamble blamed the war in Lebanon on Egypt's conclusion of the second Sinai agreement. The quarrel has led to widespread confusion even among the Palestinians over the status of the entire accord.

Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasir Arafat sent a message to Egyptian President Sadat

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on Thursday denouncing the Syrian statement. The message, in effect, apologized for the prefatory statement, but did not refer to the agreement itself. Arafat apparently then issued a second message to all Fatah and PLO representatives reaffirming his approval of the agreement. Despite Arafat's evident effort to distinguish between the preamble and the accord, a Palestinian spokesman told reporters yesterday that an agreement with Syria had not been reached.

Cairo last night scored the agreement, according to press reports.

The Egyptians apparently were provoked by the reference in the accord to the Second Sinai agreement. The Cairo statement described the accord as part of a scheme arranged by Damascus and the Lebanese rightists to annihilate Palestinian and leftist forces.

The quarrel over the statement and the confusion it has created will, at the very least, delay Arafat's plans to go to Damascus.

Although Arafat clearly wants to settle with the Syrians and probably is willing to minimize the incident, he cannot afford to jeopardize the material and political support he is now getting from the Egyptians. Moreover, Arafat must answer to some of his more militant colleagues who have opposed dealing with Damascus and may seize on the Syrians' duplicity as a pretext for backing out of the accord.

For their part, the Syrians have little confidence that the Palestinians will adhere to the agreement and probably will not go out

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of their way to preserve it. The Syrians are particularly worried about the outside help the Palestinians are receiving and reportedly believe it is only a matter of time before their adversaries, rearmed and resupplied, break the truce.

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LIBYA-LEBANON: Press reports that a large contingent of Libyan troops and military equipment landed at Sidon yesterday

Although the contingent apparently was sent to reinforce the Arab League security forces, Libyan forces under the league's auspices have often acted on the Palestinians' behalf. Moreover, Libya has been carrying on a separate resupply effort via Sidon

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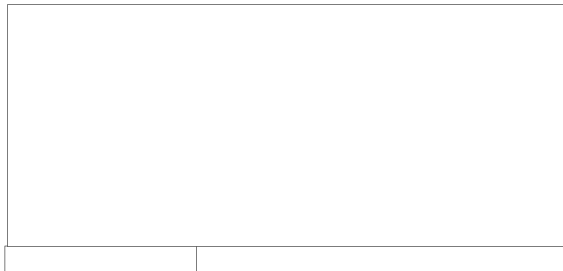
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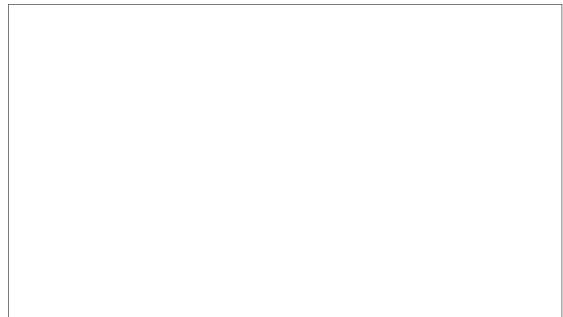
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LIBYA-TUNISIA: *Tunisian Interior Minister Belkhodja is expected to visit Libya this weekend at President Qadhafi's invitation to discuss the possibility of normalizing relations between the two countries.*



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Relations between Tunisia and Libya have been particularly bad

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Qadhafi remains fundamentally opposed to Bourguiba, and we see little prospect for any real reconciliation. Tunis, meanwhile, probably believes that it has nothing to lose by responding to the Libyan initiative.

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ITALY:

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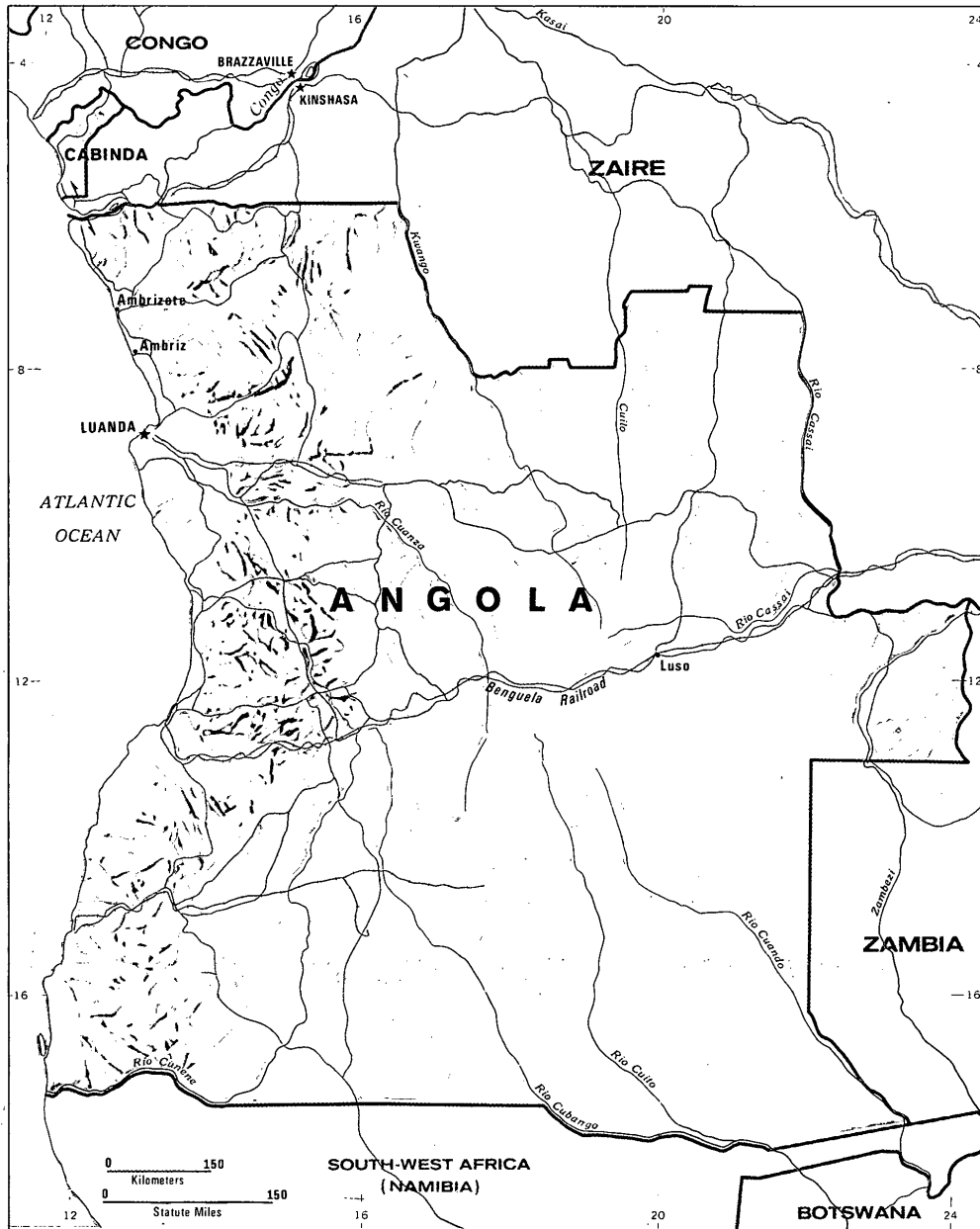
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ANGOLA: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] the Front has infiltrated a number of small guerrilla units into northwestern Angola in the past few weeks. These units have been skirmishing with government forces around four small towns in that area, and evidently have captured two of them. Several groups apparently are also scattered along the coast between Ambrizete and Ambriz. A large part of the insurgent activity reflected in the messages relates to the planting of landmines and small-scale ambushes in which casualties have been slight.

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[REDACTED] units to disperse as widely as possible throughout northwestern Angola and to be ready to launch a series of attacks against government forces on August 1, Angolan Armed Forces Day.

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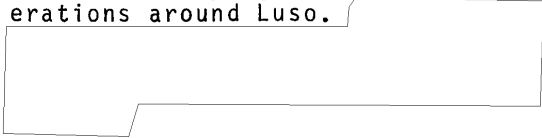
Both government and National Front forces in the northwest operations are hampered by supply shortages, particularly of ammunition and food.

[REDACTED]

Given its supply problems, it seems unlikely that the National Front can dramatically raise the level of its activities any time soon. Government forces nonetheless will have difficulty suppressing guerrilla operations, even with the assistance of Cuban troops. Northwestern Angola is densely forested and affords excellent protection from counterinsurgency operations.

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In eastern Angola, the government 25X1
has been carrying out numerous op-
erations around Luso.



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NOTES

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Kenya [REDACTED]

Uganda [REDACTED]

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*De-
spite his optimistic
comments to the press
last night, Eteki will
be hard-pressed to
bridge differences be-
tween the two sides.*

Uganda's President Amin yesterday praised Kenyan President Kenyatta and told Eteki Kampala would accept a Kenyan proposal to send a delegation to Nairobi for talks. Amin's attitudes are subject to abrupt shifts, and the Kenyans apparently are viewing his latest conciliatory words with considerable caution.

Nairobi appears to be seeking support from neighboring Ethiopia. On Thursday Kenya's foreign minister was in Addis Ababa to begin a round of periodic consultations, normally held to resolve bilateral problems.

Nairobi and Addis Ababa have a mutual defense pact, but Ethiopia is too preoccupied with its own internal problems to come to Kenya's aid. Although Nairobi probably recognizes it has little chance of getting Ethiopian help, it apparently pushed to have the meeting now to give Uganda the impression it has Addis Ababa's backing.

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The Turkish announcement giving the course the seismic exploration ship Sismik I will follow in the Aegean Sea through August 20 has relieved some of the Greek-Turkish tension associated with the voyage.

A senior Greek Foreign Ministry official told the US ambassador on Thursday that he saw "no problem" with the itinerary, apparently because it avoids areas actively contested by Athens. A high-ranking official in the Turkish Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, told the US ambassador in Ankara that the ship would not enter Greek territorial waters or conduct controversial operations. He did admit that it would spend a short time in contested international waters.

Despite these assurances, each side is taking measures that could provoke a clash. The Sismik is accompanied by a small Turkish naval escort and the Greeks have indicated that they intend to watch the ship "closely." Earlier this week Prime Minister Caramanlis told the US ambassador that he was having renewed troubles with the Greek military who believe he is not acting with sufficient force on this matter.

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The promotion, announced yesterday, of Soviet Minister of Defense Dmitry Ustinov from Army General to the rank of Marshal of the Soviet Union brings him level in rank with other top military officers who are his immediate subordinates. It also makes him the equal in military rank of General Secretary Brezhnev.

Ustinov was promoted to Army General at the end of April when he was named minister of defense. He had previously held an inactive rank as Colonel General of Engineering Troops. Brezhnev--identified as army general in 1975--was promoted to Marshal of the Soviet Union a week after Ustinov's promotion was announced.

The full implications of Ustinov's and Brezhnev's military promotions this spring are still not entirely clear, and the speed with which Ustinov has received this second promotion is surprising.

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In an interview in Pravda on the eve of the first anniversary of the Helsinki agreement, Soviet party chief Brezhnev dwelled on alleged Western interference in Italian politics.

Following the Soviet propaganda line that has been prominent for several weeks, Brezhnev charged that Western statements regarding the imposition of economic sanctions if the Italian Communists participate in the government are a clear violation of the Helsinki agreement.

Last year, the Soviets attacked Western statements on Portugal along the same line. Brezhnev's latest comments are in large part an effort to take the offensive on Helsinki.

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Yugoslavia

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The amnesty decree issued yesterday, which will free a number of Spain's remaining political prisoners and restore civil rights to the Republicans who fought against Franco in the Civil War, is a move toward national reconciliation.

The government probably hopes that the amnesty will boost its efforts to enlist support of the previously illegal democratic opposition parties in its political reform program. The amnesty covers all political crimes such as involvement in previously illegal political meetings and issuance of propaganda, but excludes persons convicted of crimes of terrorism causing death or injury. The minister of justice said about one third of Spain's estimated 600 political prisoners will be released.

According to a government official, inclusion of the military in the amnesty was a particularly delicate matter. The nine officers convicted earlier this year of subversion will be released, and armed forces members who fought against Franco in the Civil War will become eligible for pensions. No military officer benefiting from this amnesty would be permitted to return to military service, however.

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